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The office of the AMERICAN ART NEWS is now prepared to procure for patrons and readers expert opinion at a nominal rate on pictures or art objects, to attend to the buying, restoration, framing, cleaning and varnishing of pictures, and to repair art objects, at reasonable rates.

In the interest of our readers, and in order to facilitate business, we are prepared to publish in our advertising columns, special notices of pictures and other art works, with reference to the individual desire of any owner or buyer to sell or purchase any particular example.

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HOE LIBRARY SALE.

As we go to press it is probable that the total of the sale at auction of the first of four parts of the library of the late Robert Hoe, which closed last night, will exceed a million dollars. This by far exceeds the total of any previous auction sale of literary property in the world's history, is an astonishing result, evidences the possession of a knowledge of the worth and rarity of books and MSS. on the part of the collector which, unfortunately, did not extend to pictures and art objects, and establishes the United States, and New York in particular, as the new great literary as well as the art mart of the civilized world.

When it is considered that there are still three-fourths of the great library to be sold, probably in November, January and March next, and also in this city and by the same auction house which has so well and ably conducted the sale of this first portion, the final total will probably astound the world.

The sale has far overtopped, in interest and excitement, any picture or art sale for years, and has revealed the presence in America of collectors of literary property of not only unbounded wealth, but knowledge and acumen. The most representative and famous dealers of the Old World have attended the sessions of this remarkable auction, and have lowered their flags, both for themselves and clients, before those of American dealers and collectors.

"OLD SALON" OPENS.

An Associated Press cable from Paris says the one hundred and twenty-ninth salon of the Société des Artistes Français, better known as the "Old Salon," opened at the Grand Palais, Paris, April 29. The principal characteristics are the decreased size of the canvases and the absence of nudes. The whole is markedly conservative in technique. The contributions of the American artists, H. O. Tanner, Robert MacCameron and Walter McEwan, are notable.

The principal work shown is Fernand Corton's series of decorations for the Petit Palais in the Champs Elysées, representing a synthetic vision of Paris. Though it is a remarkable achievement it does not equal the artist's best works in this style. A big canvas by Jules Grün, entitled "Friday at the Salon," comprises 104 portraits of Parisian celebrities cleverly grouped and painted with great verve and humor.

Jean Paul Laurens' "Spanish Inquisition" is treated in masterly style. Good portraits are shown by the English academicians, Arthur S. Cope and J. H. Bacon.

Jan Styka, a friend of Count Tolstoy, contributes an impressive picture of the latter, entitled "Tolstoy on the Road to the Infinite," representing the writer in the costume of a peasant plodding through a bleak and endless expanse of snow. Georges Scott has a big military portrait of King George V on horseback reviewing the troops.

The American works appear in greater force this year than ever before, numbering more than 150. On the whole they are far above the general average. Lionel Walden's "Moonlight Sea" is one of the best pictures shown. H. S. Hubbell has a good portrait of Dr. L. Clark Seelye, president of Smith College; P. C. Dougherty and George Ricknell, excellent winter scenes; H. M. Hartshorne, a large canvas, "Breton Fête," harmonious and sincere in treatment; Richard Miller, unusually clever color studies, and Marquise Wentworth, a portrait of President Taft.

Among the other American exhibitors are Max Bohm, Frank Boggs, Cheney Russell, C. W. Eaton, F. A. Bridgman, E. B. Fulde, F. G. Carpenter, Aston Knight, Ridgway Knight, Barthold Landeau, Oscar Miller, Lawton Parker, Jules Pages, W. O. Vreeland, Elizabeth Bouguereau, Mildred Copeland, Clara Kreschinger, Elizabeth Harwood and Anna E. Klumpke.

The sculpture exhibit is on a smaller scale than usual and contains nothing conspicuous. Roger Bloche shows an aviator dying in the wreck of his machine, a work ordered by the State, which will erect a monument to the fallen heroes of aviation. A prominent place is given to Cyrus Edwin Dallin's impressive bronze, "The Prayer of the Redskin to Manitou," owned in Boston. Other exhibitors are A. F. Bilotto, J. Boyle, R. E. Brooks, W. H. Diederich and Mmes. Curtis, Huxley, Daggett and Edmond.

BENGUIAT FAMILY LAWSUIT.

Messrs. Ephraim Benguiat and his son Mordecai, of the well known family of dealers in textiles and art objects of New York, Paris and San Francisco, who recently applied to the courts here for the appointment of a receiver of the goods and assets of a business formerly conducted under the name of the Benguiat Art Museum in the Knickerbocker Trust Co. Building at Fifth Ave. and 34 St., in which they claim to have been partners, and for an injunction against Ephraim's brothers Vitall and Leo Benguiat, to prevent Mr. Vitall Benguiat from removing certain goods now in storage in this city, are awaiting the decision of Mr. Justice Greenbaum before whom the case was recently argued, in the matter. Mr. Vitall Benguiat, who was to have sailed for Paris last week, is also awaiting the decision here.

The long brief of Messrs. Wise and Seligsburg, counsel for the plaintiffs, and also the answering affidavit of Mr. Vitall Benguiat, through his attorneys, Messrs. Gould & Wilkie, are interesting and amusing reading. The brief of plaintiffs' lawyers sets forth, among other matters, that the business was conducted in the old "patriarchal" fashion as between brothers and relatives, "the concern of one being the concern of all," that there were no written articles of partnership, that "the Benguiats are Spanish Jews who settled in Smyrna and continued the traditions of their family for centuries, and that Ephraim, the eldest, left Smyrna at an early age, started as an antiquity dealer in London and afterwards successively brought to London his brothers Vitall, Leo, David and Benjamin, where he took them into business with him."

The plaintiffs' lawyers' brief further tells of an indebtedness to Mrs. Phoebe Hearst of San Francisco of some \$75,000, which was reduced to \$44,000 by partial payments, and finally paid off by Mr. Vitall Benguiat in 1908 "after considerable quarreling" and "in accordance with an understanding between the brothers and nephew." Mr. Vitall states that he made this last payment on this debt "merely as a matter of friendly feeling and to help out his family."

The plaintiffs' lawyer's brief continues to the effect that after Mrs. Hearst had been paid off, "the parties closed out the art museum in New York, and moved their goods into a storage warehouse there, but continued their business in large part through auction sales at the American Art Association, and in the dealings with that concern, Mr. Vitall Benguiat did take the main part." [It was presumably about this time that Mr. Benguiat, with the assistance of the American Art Association, made the record sale, as reported at the time in the *Art News*, of textiles and rugs to former Senator Clark, amounting to some \$300,000.—Ed.]

It is further stated that "some time during August or September, 1910, Messrs. Ephraim and Vitall had a violent quarrel in Paris, and that upon their return to New York in October last, Mordecai was excluded from the storage warehouse, and his father told him the breach was beyond repair," and that thereafter the plaintiffs began action for an accounting. "Despite an agreement between the lawyers for both sides," the brief states, that "no goods were to be removed from the warehouse, it is said that Vitall, claiming he had no knowledge of said agreement went to the warehouse and removed some goods, which his attorneys promised he would return; that Vitall has threatened to leave the country, that the goods are easily packed and removed and can be taken out of the court's jurisdiction within twenty-four hours, and if so taken plaintiffs will be without remedy, as an action for accounting will be of no effect if Vitall leaves the country with these goods."

Mr. Vitall Benguiat's answering affidavit makes a general denial of his brother's and nephew's statements, and there is an affidavit by Mr. Thomas E. Kirby of the American Art Association, in which plaintiffs say he "seems to convey the idea that Vitall was the sole owner of the Benguiat Art Museum and so recognized by him," and they claim there is no proof there was no partnership between them and the defendants.

In conclusion the plaintiffs' lawyers argue that "as there is no going concern and the business the last three years has been conducted through auction sales or sales to individuals through the American Art Association, an injunction and a receiver could do no serious damage to the business itself," and that in the Spring there is little or no business done; if a receiver be appointed, provision can be made for the sale of goods, either by the parties, or with their joint approval, auction sales could be held, or if it would be impossible or inconvenient to secure a receiver someone familiar with the business could be found to take charge of the stock and dispose of the same.

EXHIBITIONS.

(Continued from page 1.)

Martin Van Straaten & Co.—Tapestry, stained glass, china, furniture, etc.
Paris.

Etienne Bourgey—Greek and Roman coins.

Canessa Galleries—Antique works of art.

Compagnie Chinoise Tonying—Chinese antique works of art.

M. Demotte—Antiques, works of art.

Galerie Renard—Paintings of the Barbizon and modern French schools.

Hamburger Fres.—Works of Art.

Kelekian Galleries—Potteries, rugs, embroideries, antique jewelry, etc.

Kleinberger Galleries—Old Masters.

Knoedler Galleries—Paintings of Dutch and Barbizon Schools, and early English mezzotints and sporting prints.

Tabbagh Freres—Art Oriental.

Reiza Kahn Monif—Persian antiques.

Arthur Tooth & Sons.—Carefully selected paintings by Dutch and Barbizon artists.

Stettiner Galleries—Ancient works of art.

AUCTION SALES.

Anderson Auction Company, Madison Ave. and 40 St.—Porcelains, pottery, etc., owned by Mr. Philip S. Smith of Buffalo, May 9 and 10 at 2.30 and 8.15 P. M.

EUROPE.

AMSTERDAM—Frederick Muller & Co.—Modern pictures by Dutch and French artists forming the Collection De Kuyper

OBITUARY.

John H. Vanderpoel.

John H. Vanderpoel, a prominent artist and art instructor at the Chicago Art Institute, died at University City, Mo., Tuesday. The artist was born in Holland, came to Chicago early in life and developed artistic talent which induced him to go to Paris, where he finished his education. He was president of the Western Art Association and of late art instructor in the art department of the People's University. He was the author of a book on the "Human Body," a work on art instruction, used in many art schools.

Elizabeth St. J. Matthews.

Mrs. Elizabeth St. John Matthews, the sculptor, and wife of the artist Robert Matthews, died at the Hahnemann Hospital in this city last week. She had received a commission to execute a bust of President Taft and had completed a plaster cast when she was taken seriously ill. She was a member of the Municipal Art Society, and was well known in art and social circles.

Mary Ogden Avery.

Mary Ogden Avery, widow of Samuel P. Avery of New York, died in Hartford April 29, of pneumonia after a short illness. She was born in New York eighty-six years ago and lived in this city until two years ago, when she went to Hartford to live with her son, Samuel P. Avery, at whose home she died. When Mrs. Avery lived in New York she was much interested in philanthropic work, particularly in the interest of the negro and the sailor. With her husband she gave and endowed to Columbia University the Avery architectural library as a memorial to her son, Henry O. Avery. She also endowed beds in New York hospitals. Her funeral was held in Hartford Monday afternoon.